

THE ARMIES OF THE ENTENTE ARE VICTORIOUS

GOVERNMENT CANCELS THE ROSS RIFLE CONTRACT

Original Agreement with Company was Made Under Laurier Administration—Cancellation of 1916 Contract Means Saving of \$2,000,000.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, March 18.—No more Ross rifles are to be made in Canada for the Dominion Government. The contract entered into with the Ross Rifle Co. in February, 1916, for 100,000 rifles has been cancelled, the company having defaulted on deliveries. By the cancellation of the contract the country is virtually saved something like two million dollars, as the rifle, having been condemned by the British higher command, could not be used by the Canadian forces.

The circumstances leading up to the cancellation of the contract, which records the end of the final Ross rifle chapter—emphasize the care with which the entire subject has been handled by the government.

Meant Long Delay.

While there were no rifles procurable for Canadian soldiers other than from the Ross rifle factory, the government was compelled to take from that factory the only rifle they could make, without the long, necessary delay consequent upon rearing the machinery to produce another kind.

The British government made it clear from time to time in various communications that they could not undertake to arm the Canadian troops. This condition prevailed until July, 1916. Only three months before—March 30th—the war office had definitely stated, in reply to a cablegram of the Prime Minister, that they could not tell whatever as to when, if at all, they would be able to provide rifles for our troops in addition to their own.

It takes at least a year after notice is given to procure and install machinery, tools and so forth, pass the necessary experimental stages and produce a new kind of rifle. The Ross Rifle contract made by the Laurier government recognized the

fact that a year's notice for such change should always be given. Whether it had so provided or not, anyone acquainted with rifle production and especially anyone who has studied the experiences in rifle production for the present war in the United States and elsewhere, knows that no production of a new rifle can possibly be expected without at least a year's preparation. Promises of manufacturers are very readily given but the rule has been that they are not fulfilled.

Under these circumstances the master general of ordnance in the winter of 1916-17 strongly urged that an order for two hundred thousand rifles should immediately be placed. The responsible officers of the militia department—most of them officials appointed by the late government—urged in the strongest terms that no less an order would be sufficient, and that no delay could safely be allowed, as orders for the material had to be placed at once to ensure delivery even late in the summer. The government anxiously to confer the contract, to have been concluded some time in October, 1915, and the new order was to have been begun immediately. The company, however, did not complete the order until the end of January, 1917, and, consequently, did not begin to turn out the last order until about the beginning of February, 1917. Even when it did start work upon the contract, it failed to turn out the 175,000 rifles per month specified, and as a result cancellation followed.

MORE SWEEPING BRITISH VICTORIES IN NORTH FRANCE

Continued from page one.

Paris, Mar. 18.—The withdrawal of the Germans continued rapidly over a wide section of the French front. The official announcement given out this afternoon says: The German rear guards were unable to delay the French, who defeated them and pressed forward energetically. The French have occupied all the ground between the old lines and the Roye-Novon road, from Damery as far as the Lagny Heights. They are continuing pursuit of the Germans north of the Noyon road. The statement follows:

"Between the Avre and Oise our troops made important progress during the night. All the ground between old lines and Roye-Novon road, from Damery as far as the Lagny Heights, is now in our hands. There were rather spirited engagements with portions of the enemy rear guard, which terminated to our advantage and did not impede our progress. The pursuit continues north of the Noyon road."

"In the region of Rheims and north of Seicheprey there were patrol engagements. Several attacks on the Cailhonn trench cost the enemy losses without any result on our side. Prisoners remained in our hands."

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CONTAINS the active principles of Sarsaparilla, Mandarin, etc. and is an old-fashioned remedy that has been on the market over 30 years and cannot be displaced because of real merit. As a blood purifier—a cleanser of foul stomach and tongue—cure for headache and biliousness it has no equal.

Especially valuable at this time of the year when the blood is sluggish from indoor living.

25c. at your store. Family size, five times as large 50c.

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ST. JOHN, N. B.
ask for Dr. Wilson's Despatch
Wormicide Candy for Children.

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How To Get Relief When Head and Nose are Stuffed Up

County Suffer! Your cold or head or catarrh disappears. Your clogged nostrils will open, the air passages of your head will clear and you can breathe freely. No more snuffing, hawking, mucus discharge, dryness or head ache; no struggling for breath at night. Get a small bottle of Dr. Wilson's Cream in your nostrils. It penetrates through every air passage of the head, soothing and healing the swollen or inflamed mucous membrane, giving you instant relief. Head colds and catarrh yield like magic. Don't stay stuffed-up and miserable. Relief is near.

POLITICAL PRISONERS RELEASED

About 1,700 Criminals Escape from Moscow Prison, but Most of them Recaptured.

London, Mar. 18.—Telegraphing from Petrograd Sunday, Reuters' correspondent says:

"Between three and four hundred political prisoners have been released from the Butyr prison in Moscow. About 1,700 criminals, many of them most dangerous characters, escaped from the prison, but a majority of them have already been re-arrested. In scarcely any cases was resistance offered. All the undestroyed archives of the political police are being given to Vladimir Bourzef, the well-known revolutionist."

Cheered Abandon.

"The police of Kiev went over to the new government in a body. In the provincial towns the manifesto announcing the abdication of Emperor Nicholas was read from the stages in the theatres. The audiences rose and cheered and made up collections with which to buy gifts for the troops."

"An incident occurred in Petrograd yesterday which is considered a good augury for the new regime. A procession of five thousand officers, proceeding to the Duma to declare their adherence to the new government, met troops who were returning and who halted and enthusiastically cheered them. M. Kerenki is being addressed as 'Mr. Minister' by the officials of the ministry of justice, instead of 'excellency'."

The first Moscow newspaper since the outbreak of the revolution arrived in Petrograd yesterday. It was auctioned on a street corner for the benefit of the soldiers' food supplies, and brought 10,000 rubles. Other newspapers sold for hundreds of rubles. Minister of Justice Kerenki has received a million rubles for the use of the government from a group of banks.

"Prayers for the Emperor and his family have been replaced in the church services by prayers for 'Great Russia and her rulers'."

"M. Kerenki has rescinded the order of banishment against Grand Duke Dmitri and Prince Youssouf, the slayers of Grand Duke Rasputin, the monk who exercised great influence over the Imperial family, and the two men are returning to Petrograd."

GROTHERS LEAVES TO SETTLE COAL MINE DIFFICULTY IN WEST

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Mar. 18.—Hon. T. W. Crothers, Minister of Labor, left tonight for Calgary to assist in reaching a settlement of the differences between the miners and the operators of the Fernie and adjacent districts. The agreement under which the men are working terminates at the end of the month, and representatives of the miners and operators have been in session since March 1 discussing the new agreement. All points of difference have been settled, except wages, and Mr. Crothers was asked to go to Calgary to assist in the final settlement.

It is to be noted that the British official communication says:

"We have occupied Nevele, and the French communication says, our cavalry this morning entered Nevele, while Nevele is apparently on the French line, the British have taken the town of Chaulnes, and it is possible that forces from both armies have entered Nevele, which lies only a few miles to the southeast of Chaulnes."

Berlin, Mar. 18, via wireless to Bayville.—In a supplementary official report issued tonight, it is announced that "in the strip of land between Arras and the Aisne, voluntarily evacuated by us, only in some places are our protecting groups in fighting touch with the hostile cavalry and in fantry."

The statement continues: "On both sides of the Aisne fighting actively is marked. Is the east there is nothing of importance. Engagements between Ochrids and Presba lakes and north of Monastir were resumed today, and have not yet ended."

REVOLUTION IN RUSSIA IS STILL SPREADING

(Continued from page 1)

Message to Diplomats.

Petrograd, Mar. 18, via London.—Following is the text of the message sent by Foreign Minister Miliukoff to the Russian diplomats abroad:

"The news transmitted by the Petrograd telegraphic agency (the Semi-official Russian News Bureau) already has acquainted you with the events of the last days and the fall of the old political regime in Russia, which collapsed lamentably in the face of popular indignation provoked by its carelessness, its abuses and its criminal lack of foresight. The unanimity of sentiment which the order of things now at an end had aroused among all healthy elements of the nation has considerably facilitated the crisis. All these elements having rallied with enthusiasm to the noble flag of revolution, and the army having lent them its speedy and effective support, the national movement obtained decisive victory within eight days."

"This rapidity of realization happily made it possible to reduce the number of victims to a figure unprecedentedly small in the annals of upheavals of such extent and importance."

"By an act dated from Pskov, March 15, Emperor Nicholas renounced the throne for himself and the hereditary Grand Duke Alexis Nikolavich in favor of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich. In reply to a notification which was made to him of this act, he renounced the throne and the crown of Russia, and by an act dated Petrograd, March 16, in his turn renounced assumption of supreme power until the time when a constituent assembly, created on the basis of universal suffrage, should have established a form of government and new fundamental laws of Russia. By this same act Alexandrovich invited the citizens of Russia, pending a definite manifestation of the national will, to submit to the authority of the provisional government, constituted on the initiative of the Duma of the state, which holds full power. The composition of the provisional government and its political programme have been published and transmitted to foreign countries."

The Great Crisis.

"This government, which assumes power at the moment of the greatest external and internal crisis which Russia has known in the course of her history, is fully conscious of the immense responsibility it incurs. It will apply itself first to repairing the overwhelming errors bequeathed to it by the past, to ensuring order and tranquility in the country, and finally, to preparing the conditions necessary in order that the sovereign will of the nation may be freely pronounced as to its future lot."

"In the domain of foreign policy the cabinet, in which I am charged with the portfolio of the ministry of foreign affairs, will remain mindful of the international engagements entered into by the fallen regime, and will honor Russia's word. We shall carefully cultivate relations which unite us to other friendly and allied nations, and we are confident that these relations will become even more intimate, more solid, and the new regime established in Russia is resolved to be guided by the democratic principles of respect for the small and great nations, to the liberty of their development, and to good understanding among nations."

Will Continue War.

"But the government cannot forget, for a single instant, the grave external circumstances in which it assumes power, Russia did not will the war which has been drenching the world with blood for nearly three years. But victims of premeditated aggression prepared long ago, she will continue, as in the past, to struggle against the spirit of conquest of a predatory race which has aimed at establishing an intolerable hegemony over its neighbors, and subjecting

Europe of the twentieth century to the shame of domination by Prussian militarism. Faithful to the pact which unites her indissolubly to her glorious allies, Russia is resolved, like them, to assure the world, at all costs, an era of peace among the nations on the basis of stable national organization, guaranteeing respect for right and justice. She will fight by their side against the common enemy until the end, without cessation and without faltering."

"The government of which I form a part will devote all its energy to preparation of victory, and will apply itself to the task of repairing, as quickly as possible, the errors of the past, which hitherto have paralyzed the aspirations and the self-sacrifice of the Russian people. I am firmly convinced that the marvellous enthusiasm which today animates the whole nation will hasten the hour of the final triumph of a regenerated Russia and her valiant allies."

"I beg you to communicate to the minister of foreign affairs (of the country to which the diplomat addressed is accredited) the contents of the present telegram."

IMPORTANT MEETING IN PEKING

Peking, March 18.—After announcing the severance of diplomatic relations between China and Germany, Foreign Minister Wu Tingfang called a meeting of the ministers of the Entente nations, and later a meeting of the ministers of neutral countries. He presented a memorandum in which he requested suspension of payments, requesting suspension of payments of indemnity for the Boxer uprising, consent to an increase of Chinese duties, and modification of China's undertakings which will permit her to station troops at Tien Tsin, along the Tien Tsin Peking railway and in the legation quarter, as protection against the Germans.

The Dutch legation is protecting German interests and guarding the German legation. The German minister and his staff probably will leave Peking for Shanghai within a few days.

Denmark is looking after Chinese interests in Germany.

In the light of previous despatches from Peking the action taken by the Chinese foreign minister indicates that the government is preparing to enter the war with the Entente. It was said in these despatches that negotiations to that end were under way and that China hoped by joining the Entente to obtain suspension of the payment of indemnity, and permission to increase import duties.

GREAT SHEMAOUE

Great SHEMAOUE, March 18.—Mr. and Mrs. Robert Taylor, who have been spending several months the guest of Mr. Taylor's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Allen, leave on Friday for their home in Drake, Sask.

Mrs. James Trenholm returned last week from a visit with relatives at the Upper Cape.

Mr. Bud Taylor of Moncton, was here in the interest of Sumner & Co. last week.

Mrs. Jennie Read of Port Elgin, spent Sunday with the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Read.

RUSSIA TO STAY WITH ENTENTE

Petrograd, via London, March 18.—

With the final cementing of the elements concerned in the construction of the new government upon the ruins of the old, the new cabinet ministers, relieved of the heavy grind of the endless conferences of the last few days, in which they suffered many anxious hours, have assumed the posts to which they were assigned. Professor Paul N. Miliukoff spent yesterday at the foreign office. In the afternoon he received the diplomatic representatives of the allies, after which he entered upon a long cabinet conference.

One of the first acts of the minister was to send a series of cable messages to the Russian diplomats abroad to the effect that Russia was united in the desire to fight out the war with the allies, the determination to continue the conflict until the victory is achieved being stronger than ever.

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"The retreat continued during the night, and on Friday afternoon the whole enemy force, consisting of remnants of three Turkish divisions, was in full flight in the direction of Samara. On the morning of Friday the enemy were struggling over a distance of seventy miles, with their rear 35 miles from the scene of the fighting of Wednesday."

BRITISH ARMY ROUTS TURKS IN ASIA

London, Mar. 18.—The British army in Mesopotamia has put the Turks to rout, it is announced officially. On Friday afternoon the Turks were in full flight toward Samara, 75 miles northwest of Baghdad. The statement follows:

"In the fighting on Wednesday on the right bank of the Tigris, as al-

ready reported, the Turks rear guard was driven from a succession of ridges to a strong position covering the railway station at Mussaidie. Our troops continued to attack the position during the night, and finally captured it at 3 o'clock Thursday morning. The enemy is retreating hastily."

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A wide range of qualities, \$12.50 to \$32. Your attention particularly directed to those at \$18 to \$32 in Suits and \$15 to \$25 in Overcoats.

Gilmour's, 68 King St.

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INTEREST GROWING IN THE "CITY MISSION" CAMPAIGN

Big Event for The Will Be Home Carrying Green United Churches.

One of the most significant of the growing spirit of unity all the Protestant churches of the city is taking part in this "Mission" campaign. Nearly all the pastors deepening of the spiritual shown in the church service increased attendance at the prayer meetings. The visitations have been most successful over 100 were held, as could be learned were at over 1,500 persons.

The big event for this week home visitation on Wednesday is planned to visit every city and convey the spirit of the united churches to the city will be taken and to bring the church and into closer touch than ever and interest a number of attending church. The plans for this work have been by a committee under the of Rev. J. H. Anderson, now about complete.

Every public institution be visited and the greetings churches carried to those inmates of them. The visitations will in addition the formal greetings place each ward and room in which sick persons, as they feel much better to present their recipient can enjoy them place them on a bier after has passed away.

The soldiers will also be as the committee felt that more than right that they were serving the Empire recognized by the church. The committee are great and the work of the operation which they have the work, particularly in fact that the Lenten season of their church is busy with their own work. These activities are for the two weeks of Lent and the prospects are for a spiritual harvest such as seldom seen.

BELGIUM'S EMPTY

One reason why the B. Commission continues to actively prosecuted as even that this great though promoted under a flag has no nationality; workers is drawn from neutral nations alike, and national interests are merged in the great work of saving an entire men and children from the work goes forward same, though no longer under the stars and stripes, land, exemption from harsh telegraph tolls is being commission, and railroad Belgium is provided free the chartering and management's fleet many shipping firms are giving free of charge. Haulage port charges are being permitted to the commission doring rates are making sions in rates, and giving services. In Belgium German military authorities emptying the green an from custom and canal reduced railroad rates on canals and railways are of-way to the commission work of saving an entire distributing the bread arried out by the Belgian, which numbers m of splendid Belgium and specially trained to their. Send a contribution Relief Committee or direct Relief Fund, 69 St. Montreal.

GOVERNMENT MAY OVER U. S.

Atlanta, Ga., March ment ownership of rail dicted here by Vice-mas E. Marshall, if th of the brotherhoods is a vice-president was in t way to Winston-Salem ture there.

Bringin